(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. No such report has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

**Sirpur Archaeological Complex**

1425. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 1500 year old city, complete with a palace, temples, houses and Buddhist educational centre big enough to accommodate 10,000 students has been discovered at Sirpur, in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Sirpur Archaeological Complex is almost four times as big as Nalanda?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The excavations carried out so far at Sirpur, Distt. Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh, have brought to light remains of an extensive city datable to *circa* 6th-9th century A.D. The city contained, among other things, remains of a large Buddhist monastic complex comprising a sanctum sanctorum, a sixteen pillared hall, and ten monk's cells. The complex has preserved evidence of rich carvings depicting scenes from the life of Buddha, amorous couples, floral and animal designs besides *kirti-mukh* motifs.There was no discovery of a large educational centre capable of accommodating 10,000 students.

(c) Since the excavations at Sirpur are as yet inconclusive, it will not be appropriate to make comparisons with Nalanda.

**Setting up of Science City**

1426. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of science cities set up/proposed to be set up in the country together with its aim and scope;